

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 COME-00 EB-08
LAB-04 SIL-01 /087 W
-----029053 290952Z /23

P R 281703Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIRORITY 0213
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV,PBOR, IS
SUBJECT: KIBBUTZ MEUHAD FEDERATION STANDS APART FROM GUSH EMUNIM
ON OPPOSITION TO BEGIN PROPOSALS

REF: TEL AVIV 10945

1. EMBOFF ASKED YA'AKOV TZUR, SECRETARY OF THE LABOR PARTY-
AFFILIATED KIBBUTZ MEUHAD FEDERATION (WHICH HAS SETTLEMENTS ON THE
GOLAN AND IN THE JORDAN VALLEY) TO ASSESS THE REACTIONS OF
HIS SETTLERS TO BEGIN'S PEACE PROPOSALS. TZUR STRESSED
THAT THOSE LIVING IN SETTLEMENTS BEYOND THE GREEN LINE
WERE NERVOUS AND CONCERNED. AS THEY SEE IT, THEY WERE
ASKED BY THE GOI TO SETTLE IN UNINHABITED AREAS VITAL
TO THE SECURITY OF THE STATE. THEY ARE NOT LIKE THE
GUSH EMUNIM, WHO, FOR RELIGIOUS/IDEOLOGICAL REASONS,
FORCED THE GOI INTO ALLOWING JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN IN-
HABITED ARAB AREAS. NONETHELESS, KIBBUTZ MEUHAD SETTLERS,
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WHO HAVE WORKED HARD FOR YEARS, NOW ALSO FIND THEIR
FUTURES TERRIBLY INDEFINITE.

2. TZUR STATED THAT THE KIBBUTZ MEUHAD FEDERATION
WOULD MAKE AN AFFORT TO CONVINCE THE LABOR PARTY TO
STAND UP FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE SETTLEMENTS BEYOND
THE GREEN LINE. HOWEVER, THERE WOULD BE NO ALLIANCE

WITH THE "EXTREMISTS" OF GUSH EMUNIM. HE STRESSED THAT THE KIBBUTZNIKS THAT HE REPRESENTED WERE SEPARATED FROM THE GUSH BY A WIDE GULF. THE KIBBUTZ MEUHAD WOULD STAND BY ITSELF IN OPPOSITION TO BEGIN'S PROPOSALS. TZUR SAID THAT ALL OF HIS KIBBUTZNIKS WANTED PEACE AND FAVORED TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE, BUT RHETORICALLY ASKED WHY ISRAEL WAS BEING REQUIRED TO MAKE ALL THE CONCESSIONS.

3. COMMENT: IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE SETTLEMENTS OF THE KIBBUTZ MEUHAD FEDERATION WERE THE ONLY ONES NOT REPRESENTED AT THE DECEMBER 27 GUSH-SPONSORED PROTEST MEETING AT OFRA. TZUR CLEARLY FEELS THAT HIS POSITION REQUIRES HIM TO INTERCEDE WITH THE LABOR PARTY ON BEHALF OF THE SETTLEMENTS. HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD HAVE KEPT THE SETTLEMENTS UNDER ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY. HOWEVER, HE IS REALISTIC AND RECOGNIZES THAT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE PEACE ISRAEL WILL HAVE TO MAKE PAINFUL CONCESSIONS. AS A RESULT, SOMEONE (THE SETTLERS) WILL HAVE TO TAKE THE LUMPS. ALTHOUGH AWARE OF THIS PROSPECT, HE DID NOT LIKE TO THINK ABOUT IT AT THE PRESENT TIME.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FEDERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV11190
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780001-0355
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771210/aaaaahzt.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a0e620fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TEL AVIV 10945
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 102765
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIBBUTZ MEUHAD FEDERATION STANDS APART FROM GUSH EMUNIM ON OPPOSITION TO BEGIN PROPOSALS
TAGS: PDEV, PBOR, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a0e620fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009